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October 13, 1922

Hon. Edward I. Edwards,
The Capitol,
Trenton, N.J.

Sir:

The course of action, pursued by the Prosecutors of Middlesex and Somerset Counties, in the investigation of the murder of Rev. Edward W. Hall and Mrs. Eleanor R. Mills, and particularly their course of action during the past week, compels me as the representative of Mrs. Hall and her family to bespeak your prompt intervention.

Whatever the situation may be in respect to your legal power to intervene, surely the great office of Governor of New Jersey is invested with the moral power to bring about through every means available to a sovereign State, a thoroughly comprehensive, intelligent and coherent investigation of this hideous crime. Such an investigation has not yet been made, nor do the methods hitherto employed by the present Prosecutors give promise that it ever will or can be made by them.

The net result of their activities up to the present, so far as a solution of the crime or the development of any clue reasonably looking toward its solution is concerned, is absolutely nil. But other results of far-reaching character abound. The atmosphere of New Brunswick is charged with every sort of rumor that political pressure, money, social prestige have been made use of by Mrs. Hall and her family to hinder and delay the administration of justice in this case.

In the mind of the public, Mrs. Hall is held responsible for the present impossible condition of affairs-- in truth, it is due to the bungling stupidity of the officials of the two counties. And now the evidence is unmistakable that the authorities of the one county are at odds with the authorities of the other county, with the efforts of the State Troopers, standing between the two, rendered abortive.

Mrs. Hall and her family cannot longer maintain silence. To do so would be tacitly to admit the false accusations levelled against her and them. Mrs. Hall, her brothers and all her relatives are now and have been from the beginning desirous of submitting to every test of their complete innocence which a thoroughly comprehensive, intelligent and coherent investigation demands. But if the investigation is to continue in the hands of officials who cause an arrest for murder upon the accusation of an admittedly irresponsible person and then state that they are not interested in whether the accusation is or is not true, neither Mrs. Hall nor anyone else is free from the menace of official hysteria and tyranny.

It is not pleasant for me to write as I have, for New Jersey is my own native state and I share with Your Excellency the deepest respect for the traditional integrity of its institutions of government. I cannot, without protest, see their integrity debased. I respectfully request therefore that,